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Title: The Speaker made an observation regarding the business transacted by the House during the week ending 1st December, 2007.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during last week.

During Question Hour, out of 100 Starred Questions admitted, 29 were answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 1033 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

One Half-an-Hour Discussion on Non-issuance of Visas and Passports to Indians Living Abroad was also taken up for discussion.

One Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 regarding the 'Indo-US Nuclear Agreement' raised by Shri Rupchand Pal was taken up and discussed for over 6 hours 34 minutes before it was replied by the Minister of External Affairs.

As regards the financial business, the House spent nearly 4 hours on the combined discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2007-08 and Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2005-06, and 5 hours 22 minutes on discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08 before passing the related Appropriation Bills. A Government Resolution regarding the approval of recommendations in Sixth Report of Railway Convention Committee (2004) moved by Shri Lalu Prasad was also adopted.

As regards the legislative business, the House discussed for about 3 hours and 45 minutes one Statutory Resolution regarding approval of the proclamation issued by the President under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Karnataka before it was adopted. The House also discussed for about 1 hour 08 minutes the Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2007 before the Bill was passed. The House also had a combined discussion for about 2 hours 50 minutes on the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Bill, 2007 together with the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan disapproving the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2007. The Statutory Resolution was thereafter withdrawn and the Bill was passed. Another combined discussion took place on the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2007 together with the Statutory Resolution moved by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat seeking disapproval of the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007. The Statutory Resolution was thereafter withdrawn and the Bill was passed. The House further discussed for 1 hour 19 minutes the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 2007, before the Bill was passed. The Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007 was also discussed for 3 hours 9 minutes, before it was passed by the House.

As regards Private Members' Business, as many as 13 Bills were introduced. The House resumed discussion on two Private Members' Bills (i) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 moved by Shri Mohan Singh on 24.8.2007. It was discussed for about 1 hour and 06 minutes before it was withdrawn; and (ii) The Inter-State River Water Regulatory Authority Bill, 2005 also moved by Shri Mohan Singh was discussed for about 48 minutes before it was withdrawn. Another Bill, the Electoral Reforms Commission Bill, 2006 moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan was discussed for about 20 minutes and the debate remained inconclusive.

During the week, Members raised as many as 79 matters of urgent public importance. Also, 76 matters were raised under Rule 377.

During this period, three Calling Attention matters were also taken up. The first related to the spread of Encephalitis in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto raised by Yogi Aditya Nath. The second matter pertained to the need for effective implementation of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia and the third one related to the situation arising out of fall in the level of ground water, resulting in scarcity of water in the country, particularly in rural areas raised by Shri Hansraj G. Ahir. In response to the Calling Attention matters, the concerned Ministers made the statements and replied to the clarifications.

Twenty-six statements were also made by the Ministers on important subjects in the House.

The Departmentally-Related Standing Committees presented 7 Reports during last week.

While we lost 1 hour and 43 minutes due to interruptions and adjournments last week, the House sat late for 9 hours and 12 minutes to complete financial, legislative and other business and for raising matters of urgent public importance.

I wish to sincerely convey my thanks to all the hon. Members for their kind co-operation in the conduct of the proceedings. It is very satisfactory, I am sure, to the entire House that we have done good business. It has been possible only with your kind

cooperation, which I deeply appreciate.